

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00351 292240Z
ACTION INR-10

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R 171226Z JUN 78
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0351

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC NOTE ON WOLFGANG BEHRENDT, FRG REPRESENTATIVE IN MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

1. IN VIEW OF ITS POSSIBLE USEFULNESS AT THE OUTSET OF HIS SERVICE IN CAIRO, WE ARE SENDING YOU BY TELEGRAM THE FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC NOTE ON AMBASSADOR WOLFGANG BEHRENDT, NEWLY APPOINTED FRG AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO.

2. AMBASSADOR WOLFGANG BEHRENDT HAS BEEN FRG REP IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS FROM THEIR OUTSET IN OCTOBER 1973 THROUGH JUNE 1978. IN ALMOST DAILY CONTACTS WITH THE USEDEL DURING THAT PERIOD, BEHRENDT SHOWED HIMSELF AS A COOPERATIVE AND RESOURCEFUL COLLEAGUE, COMMITTED TO THE CONCEPT OF US/FRG PARTNERSHIP WITHIN THE NATO FRAMEWORK. BEHRENDT'S WORK IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS HIS EARLIER NATO DESK WORK HAVE MADE HIM THOROUGHLY ACCUSTOMED TO A PATTERN OF US/FRG COOPERATION ON SPECIFIC ISSUES AND HE HAS WORKED EFFECTIVELY WITHIN THAT PATTERN. HE REPEATEDLY SHOWED HIMSELF AS WILLING TO PASS ON US SUGGESTIONS TO HIS AUTHORITIES AND TO PRESS FOR THEM WHEN HE CONSIDERED THEM RIGHT. HE HAS BEEN AN ARTICULATE SPOKESMAN FOR FRG POSITIONS, BUT HAS ALSO BEEN WILLING TO QUESTION

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HIS INSTRUCTIONS WHEN HE THOUGHT THEY DID NOT FIT THE NEGOTIATING SITUATION. HE HAS DONE MUCH TO MAKE THE AD HOC GROUP THE COORDINATING GROUP OF NATO PARTICIPANTS IN VIENNA, THE COHERENT AND SMOOTHLY FUNCTIONING INSTITUTION WHICH IT HAS BECOME.

3. BEHRENDT IS RESPONSIBLE AND HAS GOOD JUDGMENT. HE HAS AN AGILE, INVENTIVE AND SENSITIVE MIND, QUICK TO DETECT NUANCES

AND TO SUGGEST TACTICS. HE HAS SOME SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC INCLINATIONS AND MAY BE A PARTY MEMBER, BUT DOES NOT HAVE A BASE OF SUPPORT IN THE PARTY. HOWEVER, HE KNOWS CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT PERSONALLY AND HAS ON OCCASION PASSED ON IDEAS TO HIM ON A PERSONAL BASIS.

4. BEHREND IS WELL INFORMED, WIDELY READ, HAS A WIDE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND AND IS PROUD OF IT. DESPITE HIS QUICK MIND, OR BECAUSE OF IT, HE SOMETIMES SURRENDERS TO BOREDOM AND INATTENTION. HE ENJOYS SOCIAL LIFE, DANCING, DIPLOMATIC GOSSIP, GOOD FOOD AND WINE, RIDING AND SKIING. MRS. BEHREND IS THE DAUGHTER OF A WEALTHY GERMAN BUSINESSMAN. SHE IS OUTSPOKEN BUT NOT MALICIOUS. SHE HAS A RECURRENT BACK PROBLEM. BOTH BEHREND SPEAK EXCELLENT ENGLISH AS WELL AS FRENCH. THE BEHREND'S THREE DAUGHTERS OF SCHOOL AGE WILL ACCOMPANY THEM TO CAIRO.
RESOR

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NNN

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